

I claim:

1. A SMIF pod, comprising:
 - a pod, having a pod shell and a pod door, said pod door forming a gas-tight seal with said pod shell, said pod having an opening;
 - a receptacle forming a gas-tight seal with said pod, and positioned to cover said opening in said pod; and
 - an interchangeable modular cartridge positioned within said receptacle.
2. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 1, wherein said interchangeable modular cartridge has at least one component selected from the group consisting of (i) a valve, (ii) a filter, (iii) a conditioning agent, and (iv) a blank.
3. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a breather filter.
4. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises an adsorbent filter.
5. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a valve.
6. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a conditioning agent.
7. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a blank.
8. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a filter and a valve.
9. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a filter and a conditioning agent.

10. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a valve and a conditioning agent.

11. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 2, wherein said component comprises a filter, a valve and a conditioning agent.

12. A system for allowing gas to flow through an opening in a pod as recited in claim 1, further comprising a station for inserting and/or removing said cartridge from the opening.

13. A cartridge allowing gas to flow through an opening in a SMIF pod, comprising:

an interchangeable modular cartridge forming a gas-tight seal with the pod, and positioned to cover the opening of the SMIF pod; and

at least one component positioned in said modular cartridge, the component selected from a group consisting of (i) a valve, (ii) a filter, (iii) a conditioning agent, and (iv) a blank.

14. A pod as recited in claim 13, said cartridge including a pair of wings for locking said cartridge in the pod.

15. A pod as recited in claim 13, wherein the opening comprises an inlet through which the gas enters the pod.

16. A pod as recited in claim 13, wherein the opening comprises an outlet through which the gas exits the pod.

17. A cartridge allowing gas to flow through an opening in a SMIF pod, comprising:

an interchangeable modular cartridge positioned over the opening of the SMIF pod, the modular cartridge having a pair of wings for locking said cartridge to the pod; and at least one component positioned in said modular cartridge, the component selected from a group of a valve, a filter, a conditioning agent and a blank.

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